



Trust and satisfaction

The key questions

- How committed are minorities to British political norms?
- How satisfied are minorities with the way British democracy works?
- Are there signs of alienation or disaffection from Britain on the part of young Muslims or young Black people?

It is every citizen's duty to vote in an election

% strong agreeing

Pakistani	47
Indian	46
Bangladeshi	45
Black African	43
White British	39
Black Caribbean	36

Figures reach 85% if we include those who 'agree'.

Agreement is even higher among the first generation, but converges with White British figures in the second generation

On the whole, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way democracy works in this country?

% very or fairly dissatisfied

Black Caribbean	49
White British	37
Indian	25
Black African	24
Pakistani	23
Bangladeshi	20

Satisfaction is considerably higher in the first generation but then tends to converge with the White British figures in the second generation.

On the whole, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way democracy works in this country?

% very or fairly dissatisfied

No religion	49
Catholic	37
Pentecostal	35
Anglican	33
Sikh	24
Hindu	22
Sunni Muslim	21

Figures are for ethnic minority respondents. Figures for White British Anglicans and for those with no religion are very similar to the minority figures for Anglicans and those with no religion.

Thinking about British political institutions like Parliament, please use the 0 to 10 scale to indicate how much trust you have for the Parliament at Westminster

% with low trust (scores 0 – 4)

Black Caribbean	51
White British	44
Indian	29
Pakistani	29
Black African	28
Bangladeshi	23

Again, trust tends to be higher in the first generation and then converges with the White British figure in the second generation

British or ethnic identity?

Some people think of themselves first as British. Others think of themselves first as Scottish. Which best describes how you think of yourself?

Scottish not British	32%
Scottish more than British	32%
Equally Scottish and British	22%
More British than Scottish	5%
British not Scottish	5%

Source: Scottish Social Attitudes Survey 2005.

British or ethnic identity?

	P	B	I	BC	BA
not British	6	6	10	12	24
more ethnic	16	23	17	25	25
Equally	51	47	49	49	40
More British	21	18	17	7	5
British only	4	2	3	4	2

Many Black Africans are recent arrivals who do not yet have British citizenship, whereas almost all Black Caribbeans are British citizens

Relative deprivation

There is often a big gap between what people from my ethnic group expect out of life and what we actually get

% agreeing or strongly agreeing

Black Caribbean	67
Black African	64
Pakistani	51
Bangladeshi	49
Indian	44

Perceived prejudice and discrimination

Non-white people don't have the same opportunities and chances in life as White people, as they are held back by prejudice and discrimination

% agreeing or strongly agreeing

Black Caribbean	58
Black African	53
Pakistani	38
Bangladeshi	41
Indian	40

Closely parallels the size of the 'ethnic penalties' found in analysis of unemployment

Support for radicalism

Radical Islamists should be allowed to make a speech in my community

% agreeing or strongly agreeing

White British	25
Pakistani	23
Black Caribbean	19
Black African	13
Bangladeshi	17
Indian	11

Perhaps this tells us more about British traditions of free speech

Support for radicalism

Radical Islamists should be allowed to enter or live in Britain

	% agreeing or strongly agreeing
Pakistani	40
Black African	29
Bangladeshi	20
Black Caribbean	19
White British	16
Indian	15

And perhaps this tells us more about British hostility to immigration

Conclusions

- Minorities, especially the first generation, feel a strong duty to vote, are generally more satisfied with and more trusting of British democracy than the White British
- The great majority feel British (mainly having dual identities)
- But second-generation Black Caribbeans are relatively dissatisfied, feel less trust, and feel less British than might be expected
- Their experiences of discrimination and relative deprivation probably hold the key

A final thought

If people (whether from the majority or a minority group) are unable to get what they think is a fair hearing for their grievances through conventional political channels, don't be too surprised if they find other channels for dissent.

“A riot is at bottom the language of the unheard” (Martin Luther King)

A contemporary *Sybil*?

‘Two nations; between whom there is no intercourse and no sympathy; who are as ignorant of each other’s habits, thoughts, and feelings, as if they were dwellers in different zones, or inhabitants of different planets; who are formed by a different breeding, are fed by a different food, are ordered by different manners, and are not governed by the same laws.’ ‘You speak of ...’ said Egremont, hesitatingly, ‘.....’